

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00 PM-03

H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 AID-05 IO-10 MC-02 ACDA-05 OMB-01 SCA-01 DPW-01

TRSE-00 SAM-01 IGA-01 /076 W
----- 059735

O 221134Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 1885

SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE

INFO CINCPAC HONOLULU IMMEDIATE

USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY SAIGON IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 BANGKOK 4793

REF: BANGKOK 4672

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR,PFOR, PGOV

SUBJ: US AIRLIFT RESUPPLY OF CAMBODIA

1. THERE HAS BEEN CONTINUING SPATE OF COMMENTS TO
NEWSMEN BY PM KHUKRIT PRAMOT AND DEFENSE MINISTER
PRAMARN ON SUBJECT OF SHUTTING OFF US-SPONSORED
AIRLIFT FROM UTAPAO TO CAMBODIA.

2. USIS TRANSLATION OF KHUKRIT'S REMARKS TO THE PRESS
LATE AFTERNOON MARCH 21 FOLLOWS:

REPORTER: DO YOU REASSERT THE ATTITUDE THAT
WE WILL NOT ALLOW AMERICA TO USE OUR BASES TO HELP
CAMBODIA?

KHUKRIT: IT HAS NO RIGHT ALREADY. THERE IS
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NO NEED FOR ANY REASSERTION.

REPORTER: IT IS SAID THAT BASES IN THAILAND
ARE USED AS ARSENALS FOR WEAPONS TO BE TRANSPORTED
TO...

KHUKRIT: NO, NO. THERE ARE NONE.

REPORTER: WHEN WILL WE STOP THEIR USE?

KHUKRIT: THERE ARE NONE ALREADY. THERE IS
NONE AT ALL AT PRESENT. THERE IS NO AID AT ALL IN THE
FORM OF WEAPONS OR IN ANY WAY AT ALL.

3. ACCORDING TO UPI MARCH 22, KHUKRIT REPORTEDLY
SAID NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL DECIDED YESTERDAY
THAILAND IS QTE GOING TO ASK THE US TO END IT (AIRLIFT)
UNQTE. HE ADDED: QTE WE AGREED THAT AIRLIFT SHOULD
CARRY ONLY FOOD AND OTHER HUMANITARIAN GOODS. COUNCIL
AGREED FOREIGN MINISTER WOULD DO WHATEVER REQUIRED TO
REACH THIS GOAL. NO ARMS ARE GOING TO BE SHIPPED. WE
WILL CONTINUE HUMANTARIAN AID BUT WILL IN FUTURE SEND
IT THROUGH THE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS UNQTE.
ALSO MARCH 22 MORNING, DEFENSE MINISTER PRAMARN
TOLD NEWSMEN, ACCORDING TO A USIS TRANSLATION OF AN
OFFICIAL TAPE PREPARED BY RTG PUBLIC RELATIONS DEPT:

REPORTER: COULD YOU PLEASE GIVE US SOME
EXPLANATIONS IN REGARD TO AIRLIFTS. I HAVE HEARD THAT
THE SENDING OF WEAPONS FROM UTAPAO IS STILL CONTINUING.

PRAMAN: IN REGARD TO THE SENDING OF
WEAPONS, I HAVE ALREADY GIVEN A NEWS CONFERENCE IN
WHICH I STATED THAT WE WILL NOT INTERFERE IN THE
INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF ANY NATION. THEREFORE, I WISH
TO INFORM YOU THAT WE DO NOT SUPPORT THIS SENDING
OF WEAPONS AT ALL. WE DO NOT SUPPORT THIS ACTIVITY.

REPORTER: BUT IT IS A FFACT THAT THERE
ARE PLANES FROM UTAPAO TRANSPORTING WEAPONS IN
SUPPORT OF CAMBODIA.
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PRAMAN: I KNOW OF NO SUCH REPORTS. I
HAVEN'T HEARD OF OR SEEN ANY.

REPORTER: LAST WEEK THE SUPREME COMMAND
TOOK REPORTERS TO UTAPAO AND THE REPORTS THEY WROTE
CONFIRM THAT THERE ARE PREPARATIONS IN REGARD TO
WEAPONS.

PRAMAN: I DON'T KNOW WHERE THOSE WEAPONS
WILL BE TAKEN, OR WHETHER THEY WILL GO...

REPORTER: BUT THEY WILL GO TO CAMBODIA.

PRAMAN: EN* THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE HAS
NO REPORT WHATSOEVER IN THE MATTER.

REPORTER: IN YOUR CAPACITY AS MINISTER
OF DEFENSE, WILL YOU ISSUE AN ORDER EMPHASIZING THIS?

PRAMAN: THE PRINCIPLE WE ADHERE TO FIRMLY
IS THAT WE WILL NOT INTERFERE IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF OTHER
COUNTRIES.

REPORTER: A FACT DESERVING OBSERVATION IS
THAT THE PRIME MINISTER GAVE A NEWS CONFERENCE AFTER
HE HAD BEEN APPOINTED PRIME MINISTER AND AFTER HE HAD
OBTAINED A VOTE OF CONFIDENCE, IN WHICH A STATEMENT
HE MADE...INTIMATED A DEFINITE BAN ON THE USE OF BASES
IN THAILAND FOR TRANSPORTATION OF WEAPONS THROUGH
THEM. DOES THAT INCLUDE SENDING FOOD SUPPLIES TO
CAMBODIA ALSO? IN YOUR CAPACITY AS MINISTER OF DEFENSE
HAVE YOU ISSUED AN ORDER EMPHASIZING THIS?

PRAMAN: THERE IS NO NECESSITY TO HAVE TO
EMPHASIZE IT. AN ORDER IS AN ORDER AND MUST BE OBEYED
AND CONFORMED TO THROUGHOUT. SHOULD IT BE
EMPHASIZED, IT WOULD MEAN THAT IT HAD BEEN VIOLATED
THUS MAKING IT NECESSARY TO EMPHASIZE IT. BUT IT IS
NOT NECESSARY IF THERE HAS BEEN NO VIOLATION OF THE
ORDER.
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TRSE-00 SAM-01 IGA-01 /076 W
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FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO /SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 1886

SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 BANGKOK 4793

REPORTER: IN PRINCIPLE THAT MEANS THE
UNITED STATES. BUT WHAT WOULD HAPPEN SHOULD IT REFUSE
TO CONFORM TO IT?

PRAMAN: NOT CONFORM? WE COULD
NOT ALLOW THAT BECAUSE WE WOULD CONSIDER IT TO
CONSTITUTE INTERFERENCE IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF
OTHER COUNTRIES.

REPORTER: DO YOU THINK IT WILL BE
NECESSARY TO INVITE RESPONSIBLE AMERICAN MILITARY
AUTHORITIES TO A MEETING IN ORDER TO EXPLAIN
GOVERNMENT POLICY TO THEM?

PRAMAN: WE MUST MAKE FURTHER MOVES IN
REGARD TO MILITARY AFFAIRS, BUT WE HAVE OFFICIALS
FOR THAT ALREADY. ALL WE HAVE TO DO IS TO TELL
THOSE OFFICIALS AND THEY WILL MAKE CONTACT AND MAKE
FURTHER MOVES AT AN APPROPRIATE LEVEL.
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4. NEWS ACCOUNTS REFLECT CONFUSING AND IMPRECISE
STATEMENTS BEING MADE. THE NATION SAID KHUKRIT
ANNOUNCED THAT QTE AMERICAN SUPPLY AIRLIFT TO THE
BESIEGED CITY OF PHNOM PENH HAS BEEN ORDERED STOPPED
IMMEDIATELY UNQTE. BANGKOK POST REPORTED PRIME MINISTER
QTE DID NOT MAKE A CLEAR-CUT REPLY ON WHEN THAILAND
WOULD STOP ALLOWING AMERICAN TRANSPORT PLANES FROM
AIRLIFTING ARMS SUPPLIES INTO THE BEALEDGERED CITY

UNQTE. AMONG THAI PRESS, THAI RATH QUOTED PM AS SAYING QTE US HAS NO RIGHT TO USE BASES IN THAILAND FOR TRANSPORTATION OF WEAPONS TO CAMBODIA UNQTE. SIANG MAI REPORTED PM SAID QTE THE US HAS STOPPED USING UTAPAO AIRBASE OR ANY OTHER AIRBASE IN THAILAND IN ORDER TO HELP LON NOL UNQTE.

5. WIRE SERVICES PICKING UP STORY. UPI'S MAY BE PARTICULARLY HARMFUL. IT SAID QTE SOURCES INDICATED THAT EMBASSY OFFICIALS ARE CONFUSED OVER THE POLICY OF THE NEW THAI GOVERNMENT, AND ARE TRYING TO CONFIRM, UNOFFICIALLY, WHETHER THE AIRLIFT WILL IN FACT BEHALTED. THE SOURCES SAID THAT, SO FAR, THE THAI GOVERNMENT HAS NOT APPROACHED THE EMBASSY ON THE SUBJECT OF THE AIRLIFT UNQTE. COMMENT: ONLY KNOWN EMBASSY CONTACT WITH UPI REPORTER TODAY WAS PRESS ATTACHE, WHO REFUSED TO COMMENT ON KHUKRIT'S LATEST REMAKRS.

6. WE BELIEVE IT USEFUL FOR US SPOKESMEN CONTINUE DECLINING TO DISCUSS WITH PRESS REMARKS OF THAI OFFICIALS IN THIS ISSUE AS WELL AS, FOR THE TIME BEING, COMPOSITION OF CARGO BEING CARRIED FROM UTAPAO TO CAMBODIA.

7. ANALYSIS OF SITUATION BEING SENT SEPTTEL. MASTERS

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